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Dear Hal=

I do hope everything out your way is O.K.

It appears that with respect to any news about the JFK case things are really almost at a standstill. About the only thing that comes in fairly regularly is the stuff I get from the Assassination Records Review Board and I find what they do practically worthless. The most recent one say that the ARRB recently obtained documents about a "well known researcher" (in 1964). Although their newsletter doesn't mention the name of this "researcher" it is quite obvious it is Mark Lane. If it is (and even if it isn't) what does this have to do with the assassination event itself??! Lane wasn't present at the time and although he appeared before the Warren Commission what does this have to do with what happened on Nov. 22, 1963? With time fast approaching to 1997 when their mandate runs out even the Warren Commission did better! What a waste of time.

I note that the COPA conference which will

be held in Washington, D.C. in October, 1996 will discuss the ARRB and how its handled the case so far. Will COPA collapse and touch them with kid gloves?

Despite all this I'm still intending to go to the COPA event. I'm considering doing a paper and a talk which may relate to Oswald and a particular pamphlet he received from the FPCC which was on guerilla training camps in the U.S. (by anti-Castro forces). It was I who persuaded V. T. Lee to publish this particular pamphlet after he provided the information to me. I felt it was necessary to have the information published. I have a copy of this precise pamphlet in its entirety somewhere in my files but haven't been able to locate it. If you'll recall I sent you a zeroxed copy of that pamphlet some time ago. The zerox copy was made from a copy I received from a researcher who had initial difficulty in getting it from the Archives. He finally did get it but a number of pages had blacked out areas. The researcher explained to me that this was due to FBI fingerprint "dusting". Why the Archives at first couldn't locate it I cannot say but I believe the "dusting" occured prior to the researcher's request for it. The main reasm I believe this is that when you go through the WC volumes you'll see evidence of this "dusting" in the FPCC items Oswald owned. It is my belief that the reasm the FBI dusted this FPCC material was not to prove that Oswald owned it. They didn't need to prove that— it was almost a given. I think the real reasm is

that the FBI wanted to know who else besides Oswald handled it. Obviously since there were no FPCC members in New Orleans it had to be non-members & the obvious candidates would be anti-Cuban Castro-types. Of course the possibility exists there could be others besides Cubans. Suppose, for example, a fingerprint identification on any of the FPCC documents turned out to be Guy Banister. Of course, here I'm only speculating. But what if this were the case!

On this "dusting" I would doubt that anyone has filed a Freedom of Information suit to acquire the results of all this fingerprint dusting. On what basis could the FBI results be prevented from being obtained. What could there be in an "official" denial they could cite? Your thoughts on this would be appreciated. I do have my own thoughts on what this entire episode means and it will be, of course, speculative but any input would be welcomed.

Now to get into the clippings and articles you'll find enclosed. Of these I want to call your attention to the book reviews on the Hosty & the La Fontaine's books. Two on the Hosty book appeared in the "Fourth Decade" which are really unimpressive & miss the boat completely. Both got sucked into the Hosty whirlpool he himself created. I also want to call your attention to the "Texas Monthly" letter by Jefferson Morley who is an editor of the Washington Post's "Outlook". You may even know of him. I thought there was a real howler he expressed in his

letter when he states that the La Fontaine book was "the most persuasive & professional book on the Kennedy assassination since 'Case Closed'."

By the way I wrote a review of both the Hosty + the La Fontaine's books which will appear in a new British journal on the assassination. Unfortunately it won't appear until about October or November 1996 (in their second issue). I agreed to write an article for their first issue (due any day now) and this was on an interview I did of Roger Craig back in the late 1960's. It deals primarily with Craig's presence when Oswald was being interviewed by Curry. Oswald allegedly stated that "everyone will know who I am now." Posner in his "Case Closed" tried to show the interview never occurred. Among other things I discuss showing Posner had no basis to assert this is what the Oswald remark meant. When the article appears I'll send you a copy — ditto on the book reviews scheduled for the second issue. For the third issue I've promised an article, "Oswald & the ONI" which I said would be exclusively theirs. That article will be an expansion of a talk I gave last year at COPA in Washington. There was much I had to omit from my talk (and paper) I couldn't mention because of both time + space limitations.

And finally I want to call your attention to the enclosed review of Oliver Stone's "JFK" film which appeared in a new book, "Past Imperfect." This book goes over the many different films done on historical events or figures by Hollywood.

And, finally, I am definitely planning to attend the COPA conference in Washington this coming October and will be in Washington from Wednesday, October 18th through Monday, October 21st. (The COPA event will run from Oct. 18 to Oct. 20. Perhaps I can come & visit you either Sunday, October 20th or Monday, Oct. 21st (I'll leave for S.F. on Monday, (evening), Oct. 21st so do keep those dates in mind. The hotel I'll be staying at is the Shoreham Hotel (the same one I stayed at in 1994).

Well, that's about all the news for now. Do stay in touch!

Best,
Hal Vert